

4 PROGRAMMED IMPROVEMENTS

The Study Team collected information about other scheduled improvements that are currently underway or ongoing from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) in the Friendship Heights Transportation study area. In Maryland, the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has prepared required transportation improvement needs to be met by proposed developments in the Friendship Heights community in Maryland.

4.1 ONGOING DDOT STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

As part of DDOT's ongoing effort to improve roadways in Washington D.C., resurfacing of Wisconsin Avenue from 41st Street (south of the study area) to Jenifer Street is currently underway. Furthermore, as part of the Wards 3 and 4 Roadway Improvement Project, 43rd Street between Ingomar and Jenifer Streets and 44th Street between Fessenden and Harrison Streets are scheduled to be upgraded and resurfaced. The expected completion date of these roadway improvements is summer of 2004.

4.2 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Through discussions with the Transportation Planning Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the Study Team learned that the M-NCPPC requires the following transportation improvements related to the approval of the development plans of GEICO, Hecht's and the Chevy Chase Center in the Friendship Heights area:

(The following lists are from a *Memorandum*, dated April 3rd 2003, from the Transportation Planning Division to the Development Review Division of the M-NCPPC regarding the Preliminary and Project Plan for Hecht's development. The study-related improvements were selected from the *Memorandum* for this report. Please note that all developments such as Chevy Chase Center development and GEICO have to meet the requirements imposed by the M-NCPPC.)

1. Maintain a 120-foot right-of-way for Wisconsin Avenue
2. Maintain a 120-foot right-of-way for Western Avenue, including a 25-foot truncation at Wisconsin Avenue
3. Provide separate left-turn lane along eastbound and westbound Western Avenue at River Road by re-striping the existing lane designation and change the traffic signal phasing to provide concurrent signal phasing along Western Avenue
4. Re-stripe the existing southbound Friendship Boulevard approach to the Western Avenue/Jenifer Street intersection within the existing curbs from the existing one left-turn lane and one through/right lane to one left-turn lane, one through lane, and one through/right lane. A new signal phasing is needed at this intersection to provide split phasing for Friendship Boulevard and Jenifer Street.
5. The applicant shall join the Friendship Heights Transportation Management Organization and enter into a Traffic Mitigation Agreement with M-NCPPC and DPQT to assist in

attaining the objectivities of the Transportation Management District, including making a best effort to achieve and maintain a non-auto driver mode share of 39 percent of employees. The Traffic Mitigation Agreement shall be included in the Site Plan Enforcement Agreement for the proposed development.

6. Consensus was reached to provide a new landscaped median on Wisconsin Avenue that would extend from Willard Avenue to Western Avenue where a new left-turn lane would be provided.

Improvements recommended by the M-NCPPC, especially items 3, 4, and 6, will enhance the Study Team's efforts in making the Friendship Heights area be more pedestrian friendly and providing improved traffic flow. Improved traffic movement on Western Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue will subsequently help reduce cut-through traffic using local streets, especially during peak periods.